

STOCK ASSESSMENTS FOR 2013-2014 GROUND FISH FISHERIES

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process for setting groundfish harvest levels and other specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks and a report from an established assessment review body or, in the Council parlance, a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviews this information and makes a recommendation relative to the standards of 1) the best available science, and 2) soundness for use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. Some assessments do not get fully resolved in the STAR process and are then recommended for further review by the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee at the “mop-up” review panel meeting. Rebuilding analyses that use the results of new assessments of overfished species to predict stock biomass rebuilding under alternative rebuilding strategies are also reviewed at the “mop-up” panel. The Council then approves any new assessments and rebuilding analyses recommended by the SSC. Results of these analyses are used to set groundfish harvest levels and other specifications for the following biennial management period.

Stock assessments for three species (i.e., bocaccio, darkblotched rockfish, and widow rockfish) were reviewed at the September “mop-up” panel meeting in September. The Executive Summaries of these three assessments and the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee report with the “mop-up” panel recommendations are provided as Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachments 1-4, respectively. New rebuilding analyses for bocaccio, canary rockfish, darkblotched rockfish, Pacific ocean perch, petrale sole, and yelloweye rockfish were also reviewed at the “mop-up” panel and are provided as Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachments 5-10, respectively. The SSC will formally review these assessments, rebuilding analyses, and the SSC Groundfish Subcommittee report (Attachment 4) before making their recommendations on the rebuilding progress and the use of these analyses for making management decisions. **All the assessments in their entirety under Council consideration at this meeting are available on the November 2011 briefing book CD and website (electronic only).**

The Council should consider these assessments and rebuilding analyses, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before adopting the new stock assessments and rebuilding analyses for use in 2013-2014 groundfish management.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt those assessments recommended by the SSC.**
- 2. Adopt those rebuilding analyses recommended by the SSC.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 1: Status of bocaccio, *Sebastes paucispinis*, in the Conception, Monterey and Eureka INPFC areas as updated for 2011.
2. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 2: Status and Future Prospects for the Darkblotched Rockfish Resource in Waters off Washington, Oregon, and California in 2011.
3. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 3: Status of the widow rockfish resource in 2011.
4. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 4: Scientific and Statistical Committee Groundfish Subcommittee Report on Stock Assessments and Rebuilding Analyses for 2013-2014 Groundfish Fisheries.
5. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 5: Rebuilding analysis for bocaccio, based on the 2011 stock assessment.
6. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 6: Rebuilding analysis for canary rockfish based on the 2011 updated stock assessment.
7. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 7: Rebuilding Analysis for Darkblotched Rockfish in 2011.
8. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 8: Rebuilding Analysis for Pacific Ocean Perch in 2011.
9. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 9: Draft 2011 petrale sole rebuilding analysis.
10. Agenda Item E.1.a, Attachment 10: Rebuilding analysis for yelloweye rockfish based on the 2011 update stock assessment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview John DeVore
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider and Approve Stock Assessments for Bocaccio, Darkblotched, and Widow Rockfish; and Rebuilding Analyses for Overfished Species

PFMC
10/14/11